

135:10
7 MS

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

821NFHAY *****CAR-RT LOT**C019
#0000 2710 3108#
005 DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC 5930 P1
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

MAR 17 2011

ICE 1877
O, 2010
DL. 135
No. 10

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Avakian: Seeking those who seek God

PIERREFONDS, Quebec — In describing the spiritual condition of the people of Quebec, where he has been overseeing church planting since January 2009, North American Mission Board (NAMB) church planter Jacques Avakian calls to mind the boat crew in the story of Jonah. "People in Quebec are spiritual and they're seeking something, but they're not seeking the right spirit," he says. "The people Jonah met on the boat were spiritual but they didn't know the right God because no one was sharing the truth with them."

Avakian's desire to share God's truth with others developed early in his life. An Armenian who was born in Lebanon, he was a teenager when his family fled to Cyprus in 1978 because of war. Avakian grew up in the Armenian Orthodox faith but had attended Catholic and Maronite schools in Lebanon.

At the age of seven, he received Christ as his Savior after attending a Child Evangelism Fellowship class.

In Cyprus, he attended a Brethren school and remembers the day he promised God to serve Him if He let him live through the war. "I fully surrendered my life to him



PRAYING FOR CANADA — Jacques Avakian (left), a North American Mission Board (NAMB) church planting missionary in Quebec, prays with members of his regular Bible study group. Jacques and wife Martine are two of 5,000 NAMB missionaries in Canada and the United States supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (NAMB photo)



START
HERE.
MATTHEW 9:36-38

when I was 15," says Avakian, who moved to Montreal in 1986. Now 47, Avakian is married to Martine Arbour, a French Canadian, and has two children: Sabrina, 14, and Sebastien, 12. He speaks fluent English, French, Armenian, Arabic, Turkish, and Greek — an asset for anyone serving in such a multi-cultural area.

He is the pastor of Eglise Renaissance de Long Sault in Grenville, Quebec, about an hour west of Montreal.

Jacques and Martine are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions. They are among the NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 6-13.

With a theme of Start Here, the 2011 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$70 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like the Avakians.

"When I came to Quebec, God put it on my heart to start a new church," he says. In 2005, Avakian was introduced to Gary Smith, national catalyst for church starting in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces (Canadian National Baptist Convention).

"He and I clicked and he asked me if I'd be part of their leadership, so I joined as the Quebec church planter." In 2007, Avakian became the regional church starting strategist for Montreal and since Smith's move to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Avakian has been serving as the advocate for Quebec.

"I'm a starter, a visionary," says Avakian, who has played a part in the start-up of nine Quebec churches and is currently working with a tenth church in

the process of officially affiliating with the Canadian National Baptist Convention. "Every morning, I get up to spend time with someone who is excited about starting a church and to help them be creative about the possibilities."

My personal ministry is to see as many people as possible come to the Lord through any means and to see Christians grow and go through the maturity that God wants them to reach."

Avakian points out that many people in Quebec are bitter because of past experiences with organized religion. "They're not letting the walls be broken," he says. "I want to challenge everyone to look forward and remember that God heals the past. It's my personal mission that every soul who lives in the province of Quebec be reached... to pray that God would remove the strongholds in Quebec so that when people hear the Gospel, they respond to it instead of react to it."

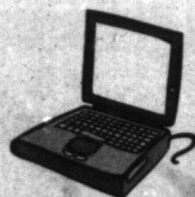
To this end, Avakian is developing a campaign called Prayer and Fasting 1771, which involves one day of prayer and fasting per week for seven weeks and then one week of daily prayer and fasting.

"We have to have strategies but we often forget the initial commandment that Jesus gave that we need to pray first. There are cultural and generational strongholds that need to be removed by prayer and fasting," he says.

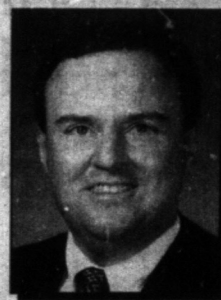
"We need workers who are willing to give up everything to serve God. People say Quebec is one of the toughest mission fields and I agree, but what mission field is easy? I don't believe anyone is beyond hope, no matter how tough they are."

NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 MILLION
WWW.ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM





EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson
Sharon Neff, Cleveland
John Price, Charleston
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 135 • NUMBER 10
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Thwarted once again

Rarely has a bill passed both chambers of the U.S. Congress with larger bipartisan super majorities and less political rancor, probably because the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) had as its objective the simple goal of defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. That's the way most U.S. representatives apparently understood it by a vote of 342-67, and most U.S. senators by a vote of 84-15, and even U.S. President Bill Clinton when he signed the bill into law without hesitation.

Mississippi's delegation at the time was strongly supportive. Congressmen Roger Wicker (R - First), Chip Pickering (R - Third), and Gene Taylor (D - Fourth), were listed as voting in favor of the legislation. Bennie Thompson (D - Second) was listed as not present. In the U.S. Senate, Republicans Thad Cochran and Trent Lott both voted for the bill.

That was then. This is now. The U.S. Department of Justice, which up until now had defended the constitutionality of the law against all challengers — and there have been many — announced on February 23 that its attorneys would no longer defend the law in court because the current U.S. President, Barack Obama, does not believe the law is constitutional and has ordered the department to stand down.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said in his February 23 press release, "After careful consideration, including a review of my recommendation, the President has concluded that given a number of factors, including a documented history of discrimination, classifications based on sexual orientation should be subject to a more heightened standard of scrutiny. The President has also concluded that Section 3 of DOMA, as applied to legally married same-sex couples, fails to meet that standard and is therefore unconstitutional. Given that conclusion, the President has

instructed the Department not to defend the statute in such cases. I fully concur with the President's determination."

Section 3 of DOMA prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, even from states where it is legally permitted. The U.S. Department of Justice is not expected to defend other sections of the act, either.

This is an outrage. It seems that this President and his administration have found another devilish way to thwart the will of the people as expressed through their elected representatives in Congress. Don't like the law? Just ignore the Department of Justice's legal and historic responsibility to defend a perfectly legitimate federal law, and thereby cripple that law's ability to make it through the judicial system and ultimately into enactment on a national scale.

Never one to conceal his radical social agenda, which includes such items as the shameless endorsement of legal abortion and the forced imposition of national health care on an unwilling populace, President Obama has seized on an underhanded, back-door way to open the country to acceptance of same sex marriage whether we want it or not.

If DOMA, with its additional protection for states that choose not to recognize same sex marriages, is allowed to starve for lack of a defender, it won't be long before the beneficiaries of this sinister presidential maneuver show up on Mississippi's doorstep demanding full rights for their perverse relationships.

Fortunately, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner (R - Ohio) has announced he will take up the DOMA cause and is proposing to have the House itself defend the law. Whether he will be successful remains to be seen.

This much we know — our President has failed yet again to take a stand for what is right and biblical. How many more times is that going to happen before righteous Christians rise up and take the stands that our President continue to dodge?

That remains to be seen, too, doesn't it?



www.mbc.org

Tunica County
March 14, 2011
11 AM

Rivergate Park
Intersection Harris & Edwards St
Tunica 38676

Quitman County
March 14, 2011
2 PM

Quitman County Courthouse
220 Chestnut
Marks 38646

Coahoma County
March 14, 2011
4 PM

Coahoma County Courthouse
115 First St
Clarksdale 38614

Calhoun County
March 15, 2011
10 AM

First Baptist Church (parking lot)
117 N. Murphree St
Pittsboro 38915

Webster County
March 15, 2011
NOON

Walthall Baptist Church
100 Church St
Walthall 39771

Lamar County
March 21, 2011
9 AM

Lamar County Courthouse
403 Main St
Purvis 39475

Forrest County
March 21, 2011
11 AM

Forrest County Multipurpose Center
Parking Lot
962 Sullivan Rd
Hattiesburg 39401

Perry County
March 21, 2011
2 PM

Perry County Courthouse
103 Main St
New Augusta 39462

Pearl River County
March 21, 2011
4 PM

Pearl River County Courthouse
200 S. Main St
Poplarville 39470

Jefferson Davis County
March 24, 2011
9 AM

Jefferson Davis County
Courthouse (lawn)
911 Third St
Prentiss 39474

Covington County
March 24, 2011
11 AM

Covington County Courthouse
(lawn)
101 S. Dogwood Ave
Collins 39428

Jones County
March 24, 2011
2 PM

Jones County Courthouse
101 North Court St
Ellisville 39437

Jones County
March 24, 2011
4 PM

Jones County Courthouse
415 North 5th Ave
Laurel 39440

Desoto County
March 28, 2011
10 AM

Hernando Baptist Church
11 East Center St
Hernando 38632

Marshall County
March 28, 2011
2 PM

Marshall County Courthouse
128 W. Van Dorn Ave
Holly Springs 38635

Lafayette County
March 28, 2011
4 PM

Lafayette County Courthouse
1 Courthouse Square
North Steps
Oxford 38655

Pontotoc County
March 29, 2011
9 AM

Pontotoc Town Square
59 S. Main St
Pontotoc 38863

Lee County
March 29, 2011
11 AM

Lee County Justice Center
200 W. Jefferson
Tupelo 38804

Students take on Bourbon St. witnessing

By Wayne Vandiver
Correspondent

The Baptist Student Union (BSU) from Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville took its sixteenth consecutive Martin Luther King Holiday weekend mission trip to Bourbon Street in New Orleans on January 14-17.

Their purpose was to hand out Gospel tracts and witness to people on Bourbon Street and in the French Quarter. They even had tracts entitled, How to Get to Heaven from New Orleans, La.

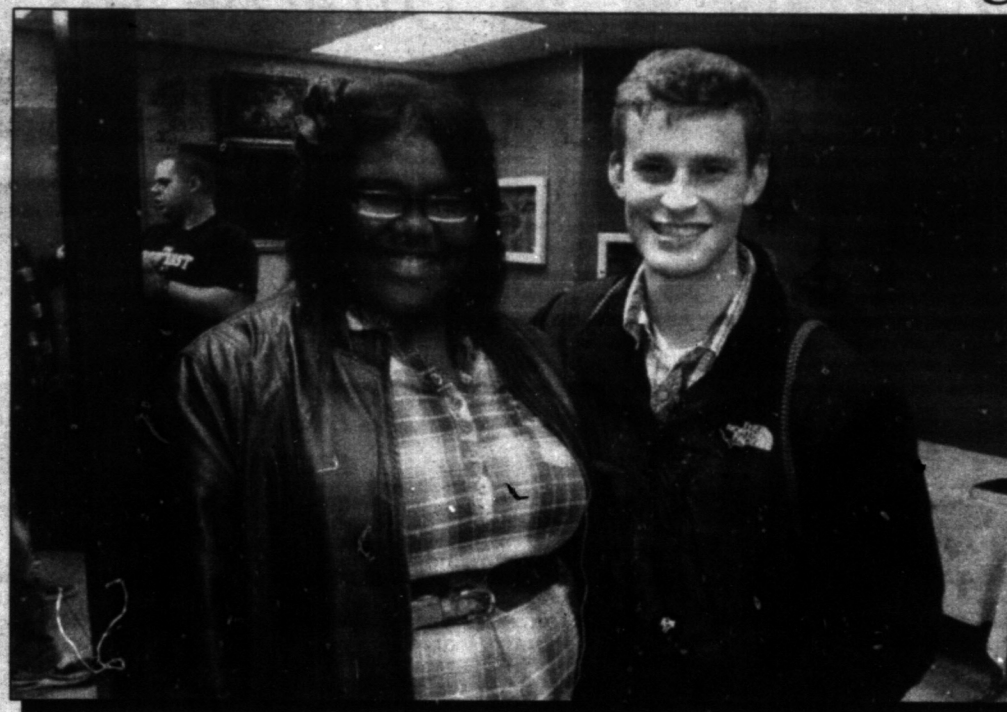
This year, thirty-four students came from Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville, Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, Delta State University in Cleveland, The University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi University for Women (MUW) in Columbus, Union University in Jackson, Tn., Booneville High School in Booneville, New Site High School in New Site, and Northeast Mississippi Community College.

Students from all Mississippi BSUs are invited to go on this trip. The BSU directors and associate directors of the Northeast Mississippi Community College and Mississippi Delta Community College were also a part of this adventure.

Besides handing out Gospel tracts, the group also used signs that said, "If you are born once, you will die twice. If you are born twice, you will die once." People on Bourbon St. are hard to talk to most of the time, but the signs appealed to their curiosity. People stopped in the middle of the street and stared. Many would then come over to the sign-bearer and ask him/her what it meant. The BSU student could then share the story of Nicodemus in John 3 where Jesus told him, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Some things about this trip stay the same from year to year, while other things change. One of the constants is that part of the group stays at Vieux Carre Church, which is one block off Bourbon Street. The rest of the group stays at Williams Boulevard Church in Kenner, La.

Bourbon St is booming with people, the majority of whom do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The trip proved to be a witnessing laboratory for the students. Each year students go who have never shared the Gospel with anyone. They are scared to death, but after a couple of hours on Bourbon Street these same students have a boldness in sharing that they didn't have when they arrived.



WITNESSING IN BIG EASY — Gracie Robinson (left) from the Northeast Mississippi Community College Baptist Student Union (BSU) in Booneville and Kevin Roscoe from the Mississippi State University BSU in Starkville were two of the 34 students who traveled to New Orleans on January 14-17 to witness for the Gospel in the French Quarter. (Special photo)

The Holy Spirit uses this situation to teach students some valuable lessons. They come back from Bourbon Street with a higher appreciation of their parents, home, and Northeast Mississippi Community College. They also have their hearts broken over a world they have never before encountered.

There is nothing like talking to a person who is so spiritually blind that he/she cannot seem to understand that Jesus is their only hope. The students learn that the Holy Spirit will give them the words they need to say to the person with whom they are speaking. When students return, they admit that sharing the Gospel with someone back home will be a piece of cake compared to sharing on Bourbon Street.

Students had a lot to say about this experience. Daniel Smith from MUW said, "The Lord tells us to make disciples, that we are to be fishers of men. New Orleans just happens to be a place where my hook lands every year."

Robert Kirk from Northeast Mississippi Community College said, "This trip was a real eye-opener for me. I met so many interesting people and grew closer to a lot of friends, but most importantly I grew much closer to Christ and, hopefully, planted a few seeds for others."

Rachel Hall from MSU said, "What I learned on this trip is that many people have so many different viewpoints on who God is and why salvation is

necessary. This trip has taught me the importance of digging in to and absorbing the Word of God. New Orleans will always be on my heart, and the millions of people that are unsaved on Bourbon Street will hopefully have a chance to accept Christ."

Chris Carter from Northeast Mississippi Community College said, "The worst part of this trip is not the yelling, alcohol, or the sin — it's leaving. There's so much more we can do here." Alex Ward from New Site High School said, "While we were here, I was forced to step out of my comfort zone. Even though I didn't see anyone saved, I am glad I came. I was able to have several conversations with people and share how much Jesus loves them. I count that as a success any day."

Josh Harris from MSU said, "Every year New Orleans reminds me that people all

over the world are searching for what we have already found and we have one life to share this beautiful message with everyone everywhere."

David Wallace, Mississippi Delta Community College BSU director, said, "What a great experience for college students in Mississippi. I was so glad to see these students on the streets of New Orleans sharing the message of Jesus Christ. We have much to be thankful for in our state BSU ministries, and this trip helped me see it firsthand."

The Northeast Mississippi Community College BSU wants to thank all the churches that support them with prayer and finances. Missions experiences such as this are made possible because these churches care about college students.

Vandiver is BSU director at Northeast Community College in Booneville.

Looking back

10 years ago

Two intense storms, one producing a 23-mile-long tornado, give the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force back-to-back workouts in February. Storms hit both Columbus and Pontotoc.

20 years ago

North Delta Association in Clarksdale sponsors a mission trip to the Cotton Lane Church, Waddell, Ariz. Twenty-three men from nine churches help construct an educational building, completing the exterior of the building and installing the electrical conduits.

30 years ago

The Board of Trustees of Mississippi College award contracts for the construction of a completely air-conditioned women's residence. The new hall will house approximately 178 women.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 10, 2010
VOL. 135
No. 10



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

PRAYER POINT - ONE PERSON IN ONE FAMILY

Ours is the age of individualism. How does it affect you or me? What is in it for us? There is a huge disconnect from others. When you begin your day in prayer and you pray for self, it can only be accomplished as you pray in the context of others. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray He said to say, "Our Father, which art in heaven." Certainly, you can pray and say, "My Father," but Jesus is teaching us that as we pray, we are to be thoughtful not only of what we want or need but of how that request will affect everyone else. That is not easy to do, but it is a necessary part of growing in prayer. It is certainly not unusual or abnormal for something to happen in our lives about which we get pretty upset because it does not suit us at the moment, but it may be helpful to others. The reverse is also true that it could be good for us and not for others.

I can remember one summer when my children were small. My son was playing baseball. A game was to be played one afternoon and it started raining. We were in a mild drought and the farmers really needed the rain. Nine- and ten-year-old baseball players did not want it to rain. Thinking that this was a teachable moment, I sat down and explained to my son that while the rain could possibly delay



his playing baseball to maybe another day, it would really help the farmers. It would help the crops to grow and give us food. I explained all of the ramifications of good things to come because God was sending a shower our way. Still in childlike mode, there was no way that he could see anything good coming from the rain when it would mess up his baseball game.

It is an often-overlooked dimension of prayer that as we come boldly before the throne of grace as though we were charging into the presence of God, He wants us to come with sensitivity and an awareness of the cares, needs, and impact that our requests will have on others' lives. In fact, if you will take the Model Prayer that Jesus gave us and just slowly walk through it, you will find that there is not one singular pronoun. Jesus is not giving us a lesson in grammar,

but rather a lesson in life and a lesson in the things of God.

As we grow in prayer, we learn that prayer is selfless. In our relationships, the "my way or the highway" mentality does not fit in Kingdom work. In fact, it does not matter what area of the Christian life you are going to deal with, there is a corporate need that oftentimes extends past your individual preference. It is unbelievable and almost absurd that churches can get so divided and relationships can be strained or even broken over a tune, the meeting place of a Sunday School class, or a vote that was taken on a building program. Indeed, it is not about us, but it is about Him. It is also about others. In years gone by in our great country, there has been a prevailing spirit that men and women would defend our nation's freedom, giving up their own desires and so often

life itself for the greater good. So it was with Jesus, and so it should be with us.

Prayer is symphonic. Have you ever been to a concert and heard a band or an orchestra presenting a program? If you get there early enough, you can hear the various instruments as they are warming up. Generally, it sounds anything but beautiful. All by themselves, some instruments can sound harsh or meaningless. While some instruments may sound beautiful all by themselves, they take on a totally new dimension and far greater beauty when combined with others in harmony.

Maybe the bottom line for most of us is that prayer is submissive. Sometimes when we seriously think about prayer we begin to realize that it may be the deepest, most inward, personal transformation that can take place within us. When you get to that understanding, take a few more steps and realize that it is not about us, but it is about submitting to Him. He will begin, piece by piece, to bring new dimensions into our lives as we submit to Him. He will give us wisdom in making decisions, light for our path day by day, and grace not only to be giving but also forgiving. It is about us having a heart that is submissive to Him.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 10, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY

MISSISSIPPI BSU

Pastors

- 2011 is the 64th year of Mississippi Baptists sending summer missionaries.
- This year, more than 220 students will serve. **This is the largest group of summer missionaries ever sent out by Mississippi Baptists.**
- Students will raise more than \$250,000 to be able to serve this summer.

WMU Leaders



YOUR CHURCH CAN BE A PART OF SUPPORTING OUR MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SUMMER MISSIONARIES!

You can support these students in several ways:

Spiritual - Praying for these students.

Physical - Helping students with small things they may need such as toiletries, gift cards, stamps, etc. Once you have adopted a student, you can contact them and find out their specific needs.

DEADLINE: MAY 15!

To adopt a summer missionary go to our Web-site, www.missionsnow.net, choose "Churches" then "Adopt a Missionary" to complete the on-line form. Please contact Peggy Powell in the Collegiate Ministry Department with questions, ppowell@mbcb.org or 601.292.3299.

MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARIES FELLOWSHIP Spring Meeting ... April 16, 2011

Unhindered...
to the Ends of the Earth



"Let us throw off everything that hinders...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)

WHAT: FALL FELLOWSHIP - Saturday, April 16, 2011 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch
WHERE: The Auditorium on the campus of GARAYWA Camp & Conference Center
WHO: All former and currently active Missionaries (IMB & NAMB), including Journeymen, ISers, Mission Service Corps Missionaries, volunteers & Adults MKs.
COST: No Charge for lunch, refreshments or program expenses!
LODGING: There is a charge for lodging. If you need Friday night lodging, please check the prices and enclose the total amount.
PLEASE - If you make a reservation and you cannot come, let us know!

SPECIAL GUEST: Dr. Jerry Rankin,
former President, International Mission Board

PROGRAM

8:30 - REGISTRATION, REFRESHMENTS, FELLOWSHIP
9:00 - WORSHIP
10:15 - BREAK
10:45 - TIME FOR QUESTIONS!
11:30 - PROGRAM
12:00 - PRAYER CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
12:30 - LUNCH

MMF Coordinator: Mary Jo Stewart, 104 Waterfall Way, Clinton, MS 39056
Telephone: 601-924-2355 E-mail: stewart2007@bellsouth.net

MMF, MMF, & MKF are ministries sponsored by Edwin Robinson Special Day Offering Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to and department of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"Refreshing Childlike Faith"



Preschool & Children's Minister Retreat
May 2-3, 2011
Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

A Retreat for Professional
Preschool and Children's Ministers in Mississippi

Highlights:

- Program Guest: Tommy Sanders, Childhood Ministries, Dallas Baptist University
- Guided Prayer Experience
- Round Robin Table Discussions

For more information please contact
Robin Keels, 601-292-3325,
rkeels@mbcb.org
Or Angie Boydston, 601-292-3294,
aboystun@mbcb.org



July 13-16, 2011

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
Orlando, Florida

- Intensive, fun focus on missions
- Personal interactions with missionaries
- Hands-on ministry projects
- Dynamic and challenging worship experiences, conferences, and Bible studies
- A unique activity through Disney's Youth Education Series
- New friends from all over the country with a similar heart for God

blumeforgirls.com



For more information, please contact Robin Keels
1-800-748-1651, ext 322, rkeels@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STONEWALL, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Interested candidates need to submit a resume and a DVD if possible to FBC, Stonewall P.O. Box 1178, Stonewall, MS 39363. Any questions call 601-659-7607.
SELF CREEK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH, OKTIBBEHA COUNTY, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. E-mail resume to: bandbutler@aol.com or mail to 2795 Brown Road, Starkville Ms. 39759
FIRST BAPTIST NEW ALBANY IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR ORGANIST by calling 662-534-5812.
JUNIPER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Resumes can be emailed to junipergrovebc@gmail.com or mailed to 289 Juniper Grove Road, Poplarville, Ms. 39470. For more information please call 601-795-8886.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE CHURCH VAN AND BUS. 1999 Ford E350XL 15 Passenger Van 77,840 miles \$5,000 negotiable. 1999 Ford E450 Goshen Coach 25 Passenger Bus 15,982 miles \$20,000 negotiable. Contact: Randy Russ, Christ UMC Jackson, russ@christunit-edjxn.org or 601-914-7110
TRADITIONAL CONSERVATIVE, GROWING SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TN METROPOLITAN AREA SEEKS MINISTER OF YOUTH AND RECREATION. Send resume by April 15 to Personnel, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.
PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, IS SELLING "PARKWAY POTLUCK FAVORITES" COOKBOOKS. Each book contains 750 recipes in a hardback binder with stand and are \$15.00. Please contact the church office to order your copy at 662-289-1222.
FOR RENT, GULF FRONT 2 BEDROOM condominium on Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, Florida. Low Owner Rates call Lucy 770-831-3651 e-mail LucyClark9@aol.com God Bless
FOR SALE: SIX-TIER LIGHTED PATRIOTIC SINGING FLAG (ELIZABETHTOWN, KY). Used for choir cantatas. Manufacturer's construction/lighting instructions included. Photos available. POC: John Rice, john@sevensvalley.org or 770-765-7822.
FOR SALE: 4 CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE in Lakewood Cemetery, best offer. Call 601-268-3415 or sdj987@aol.com.
WANTED: 1975 BAPTIST HYMNAL accompanist edition, any color. Contact Linda Harrison @ Herbert Baptist Church, Union, Ms 601-416-7044.
SINGING FOR JESUS BY HIS GRACE QUARTET, with Michael and Allison. We'll sing for your church, special programs, senior group, church fund raisers, etc. Call Billy Reeves for FREE CD AND SCHEDULE - 601-859-0876 601-940-2455.
STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970
GATLINBURG CABIN FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, great view of National Pk. \$95/night. 832-922-0401 / pdw4760@aol.net
STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS AND REPAIRS. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.
FOR SALE: 1880 WINDSOR CHICAGO Pump Organ, good condition, \$800. 601-373-4004.
FOR SALE SIX CEMETERY PLOTS in Lakewood Cemetery Clinton Blvd. \$1200 each. Call 601-573-6467
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES THROUGH APRIL 30, 2011 for a full time experienced Southern Baptist Pastor. If possible send DVD of sermon with resume. Mail to Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 740236, Tusculum, AL 35674.
AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, AL. Rent Direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. Spring Special 4 Nights Eff Unit (2 adults & kids) \$444. Includes Everything. 1,2 & 3 Bedroom units also available. Even lower prices for those in the Ministry. 205-556-0368 205-752-1231. www.gulfshorescondos.com
CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss. phone 601-776-6617.
SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.
EVERYONE NEEDS TO GET AWAY BETSY'S LUX CABINS at Lake Lincoln State Park. rents nightly or \$250.00 a week. For details Call 601-940-6841 or 601-643-8817
GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

Marriage
THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN ESCAPE
an unforgettable weekend
at the COUNTRY CASCADES Hotel
in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
April 29, 30 & May 1, 2011
\$315.00 per couple!
WEEKEND TOPICS INCLUDE:
• The Balancing Act: Setting Priorities in a Busy World
• Materialism: Keeping Up With The Joneses
• Getting in Shape: Financial Fitness 101
• Communication: More Than Just Talking
• God's Design for Intimacy
Speakers include: Ronnie & Beverly Cottingham, Lucedale, MS
Lee & Christie Merck, Grove Hill, AL
David & Jennifer Williamson, Hattiesburg, MS
Friday Night Concert - Gordon & Donna Alford, Knoxville, TN
Program costs per couple includes two nights lodging, deluxe continental breakfasts, and conference fees.
To register using a credit card and/or to request a full color brochure,
1-601-947-7167
SPACE IS LIMITED SO CALL TODAY!
This marriage enrichment conference is a division of Jus' Jesus Ministries, Inc.
www.ronniecottingham.com

Witnessing Through MEDIA

WORKSHOP INFO

WHEN:
May 7, 2011

Registration, Vendors
Display and Breakfast:
Opens at 8 a.m.

WORKSHOPS:

- Advanced Web Site Design
- Creative Production
- Getting Started on the Web
- How Did They Do That?
- Me? The Director?
- "Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation
- The Other Media
- Projection Systems Forum
- Sound Advice Advanced
- Sound Advice Basic

CHECK WEB SITE FOR MORE INFORMATION www.mbc.org
Sponsored by the Communication Services Department



Covering Our Missionary Children in Prayer

Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship Spring Retreat

(Please register by Friday, April 8, 2011)

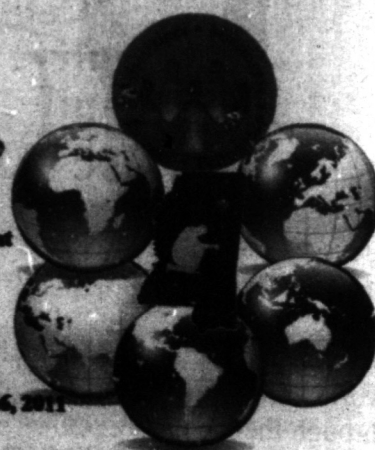
Register for meals, even if you do not require lodging.
We need an accurate count for meal preparations.

Please mail registration form along with payment to:
Mississippi Missionary Parents' Fellowship, April 15-16, 2011
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
312 Camp Garaywa Road
Clinton, MS 39036

601-924-7834 or e-mail ADuncan@mbcb.org

Please remember that no reservations can be made over the phone.
Make your check payable to Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

MPF, MMEF, & MCF are ministries sponsored by Edwin Robinson Special Day Offering
Women's Missionary Union, auxiliary to and department of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



2011 PREACHING CONFERENCE



Featured Presenters:

Daniel Caldwell
Ronald Meeks
Wayne VanHorn
C. Alar Woodward

Mississippi
College

April 18

Blue Mountain
College

April 19

William Carey
University

April 20

Contact Kay McDonald for more info:
601-292-3307 or kaymcdonald@mbcb.org

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop



March 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Parkway Baptist Church

802 North Frontage Road

Clinton

For pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning
committees, business administrators and maintenance/property personnel.

For more info, contact Keith Gordon
at kgordon@mbcb.org or 601-292-3307 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307

Pastors/Ministers of Education/ Sunday School Directors Conference

Pastors, Ministers of Education, and Sunday
School Directors of any SBC church

Are you tired of "business as usual," doing the
same thing and getting same results, but not
moving forward?

Well... here is your chance to hear from a pastor
and his minister of education who have taken
bold steps of faith to move their church forward
by prioritizing Sunday School! You will be
challenged and refreshed by your participation in
this significant event.

Registration required for meal count.

6 P.M.
DINNER

7-9 P.M.
CONFERENCE

APRIL 4
NORTH GREENWOOD
GREENWOOD

APRIL 5
FBC,
BROOKHAVEN

Contact Carolyn Day for more info:
601-292-3291 or cday@mbcb.org

Larry LeBlanc II,
Pastor
First Baptist
Church, Summit



Craig Richardson
Minister
of Education
First Baptist
Church, Summit



Celebrate Cooperative Program Day April 10, 2011

In biblical terms, the Cooperative
Program reaches out to Jerusalem, all
Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of
the earth. It can be best understood as
your church, your association, your state convention, the
mission program across America, and the people groups of the
world all being directly affected as you continue to give
through the Cooperative Program. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
Jim Futral

Materials to assist in this celebration will be mailed to you
free when you call Jerry W. Mixon, Stewardship Department
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. 1.800.748.1651 or local
601.292.3347 and speak with Lisa Leavell.



"Spring" into Missions with... WorldCrafts

WorldCrafts is a ministry of WMU that provides artisans from all over the world
and opportunity to provide food, clothing, housing, education, and medical care for
their families. The spring is a perfect time to host a WorldCrafts event for your
church or small group. For more information on WorldCrafts or for help planning
your event, please contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office
(800-748-1651, ext. 323, or tanderson@mbcb.org).
You can shop for WorldCraft items online at www.worldcraft.org.



VBS CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

6:30 p.m. Worship Rally
7-9 p.m. Conferences

CONFERENCES

- Preschool and Children
- Pastors, Evangelism
and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions,
Music, Crafts, Snacks
- Club VBS: Beach Blast
- Conferences also offered for
non-LifeWay users.

For more information contact Angie Boydston at
aboystun@mbcb.org or
Lee Ann Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

April 12, 2011

Brooksville BC, Macon
Liberty BC, Liberty
FBC, Cleveland

April 14, 2011

Gaston BC, Booneville
Parkway BC, Kosciusko
Temple West BC, Hattiesburg

Mid-Delta FamilyFEST July 20-24, 2011

(Cleveland, Greenwood, Indianola area)

FamilyFEST is a hands-on mission project
designed to help families connect with one
another while doing missions/ministry
together. Any missions volunteers
six years and older are encouraged to
participate.



The cost is \$25 per individual or
a maximum of \$50 per family
(immediate family - parents and their
children). The cost includes: registration
fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies,
some meals. Additional cost will include: some project
supplies, meals, and housing. We are working on affordable
housing options.

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact Tammy Anderson
in the Mississippi WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-
3323 or tanderson@mbcb.org).

FamilyFEST is co-sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association, Men's
Ministry (MBCB) and Mississippi WMU (MBCB).

GROWING CHURCHES

Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Association

Growing Churches Conference

Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30, 2011

Harrisburg Baptist Church

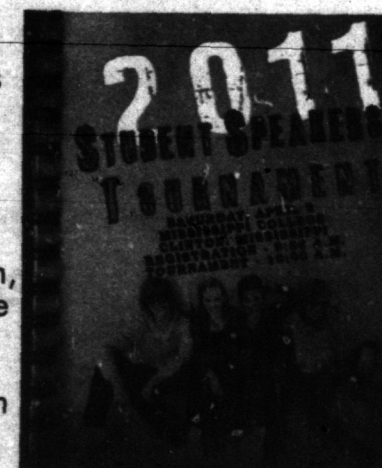
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.

Tupelo, MS 38801

For the training of the saints in the work of the
ministry to build up the body of Christ.

Student Speakers'
Tournament is designed to
challenge teens to express
their faith verbally. It
demands serious time and
effort, but with a
tremendous payoff.
Students grow spiritually
when engaged in research,
study, prayer, and practice
of preparing a speech.
Today's speakers will be
ready to stand for Christ in
their churches, schools,
work places, and
communities. They will develop skills to articulate truth
in a way that people will hear and understand.

Contact info: 1.800.748.1651 toll-free, 601.292.3286 local
E-mail: khall@mbcb.org, E-mail: redwards@mbcb.org
Fax: 601.714.7432



Special three month prayer emphasis for HouseTops

2011 MBCB Emphasis Covering MS in Prayer Associational Prayer Rallies



"These all continued in one accord in prayer..." Acts 1:14 KJV

Monday, March 14

- Tunica - 11 a.m.
- Marks - 2 p.m.
- Clarksdale - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15

- Pittsboro - 10 a.m.
- Walthall - noon

Monday, March 21

- Purvis - 9 a.m.
- Hattiesburg - 11 a.m.
- New Augusta - 2 p.m.
- Poplarville - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23

- Lexington - 10 a.m.
- Greenville - 2 p.m.

Prayer request focus for participants at rallies and for yourself.

1. SELF

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me..." Psalm 66:18

2. SERVANTS

"Exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

3. SOULS

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word..." John 17:20

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" Matthew 23:37



MISS TAYLOR DEWETT - 5-1-08
Parents: Ted & Kerri
American Peoples

MISS KATHRYN C. - 5-22-00
Parents: J & T.
Restricted

MISS KAMRYN DEWETT - 5-1-08
Parents: Ted & Kerri
American Peoples

MISS ADRIANN S. - 5-3-99
Parents: Jerry & Kelly
Restricted

MR. PATRICK N. - 5-5-00
Parents: J & J
Restricted

MRS KELSEY HORTON CUMMINS - 5-14-90
Parents: Francis & Angie
Baptist Global Response

MR. JACOBSON HOLEMAN - 5-14-99
Parents: Jeffrey & Leisa
American Peoples

MR. JUDSON N. - 5-15-09
Parents: Keith & Susan
Restricted

MR. PATRICK AUSTIN - 5-13-96
Parents: Arnold & Susie
American Peoples

MISS ADDIE GRACE PUTNAM - 5-16-00
Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Peoples

MR. KONNER HORTON - 5-16-91
Parents: Francis & Angie
Baptist Global Response

MR. MICAH PEACOCK - 5-16-96
Parents: Kevin & Brenda
European Peoples

MISS ANNA CLAIRE - 5-23-01
Parents: Jim & Penri
Last Frontier

MISS LAURA PURL - 5-24-91
Parents: John & Amy
European Peoples

MISS SYDNEY HENDERSON - 5-25-04
Parents: Brian & Felicia
American Peoples

MISS DARCY D. - 5-26-06
Parents: D. & M.
European Peoples

MR. CRUZ WHITE - 5-26-10
Parents: David & Regina
American Peoples

MR. SKYLAR HENDERSON - 5-27-00
Parents: Brian & Felicia
American Peoples

MR. CALEB S. - 05-29-03
Parents: Spencer & Melanie
Last Frontier

MR. SAMUEL SIMPSON - 5-31-07
Parents: Adam & Kristen
European Peoples

Late Edition:
MISS LAURA WINGO - 3-1-01
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
American Peoples



Encourage an
MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.
Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box
530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together;
cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle



2. Concord Church, Booneville



3. Thompson Church, Smithdale



4. Branch Church, Morton



1. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, held its 4th annual wild game supper Feb. 26, with 415 attending and over 100 door prizes given out. Shown are the participants.

2. Concord Church, Booneville, awarded the Gerald C. Mauney Memorial Scholarship to DeWayne Morgan for the second semester. Shown are Judy Morgan, Morgan, pastor Robert E. Walker, and Juanita and T.C. Mauney.

3. The Mission Friends, RAs, and GAs of Thompson Church, Smithdale, gave away over 100 coats and many Bibles on Children's Ministry Day Feb. 19. Shown are the participants.

4. The children's ministry of Branch Church, Morton, made and delivered Valentine cards to the residents of Scott County Nursing Home in Morton. The children made over 100 cards. Shown are the participants.

5. Malmaison Church, Carroll Association, held an old-fashioned and Sunday School high attendance day. Eddie Carpenter, pastor. Shown are the participants.

6. Calhoun Association held a farewell reception for Michael Waldrop and family Feb. 27 at the Calhoun Mission Center in Calhoun City. Waldrop resigned recently to go to St. George, Utah, as a church planter with NAMB. Shown are the Waldrops and well-wishers.

7. The RAs and GAs of Grandview Church, Pearl, made and sold original Christmas ornaments for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, raising \$75. Shown are Lydia Grace McMillan, Mathan Smith, Chase Smith, and Cody Carr with leaders Cecil Weems and Tony Carr.

8. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing Mar. 19, 6 p.m., featuring the Low Note Duo.

9. Perkinson Church, Perkinson, is hosting Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, a Messianic Jew, April 6 - 10, Wed. - Sat., 7 p.m., and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sun. He is director of Ariel Ministries, a

Messianic Jewish organization, composed of Jews and Gentiles who believe in the Messiahship of Jesus.

10. Friendship Church, Aberdeen, is hosting a Family Driven Faith Conference at the Aberdeen Head Start Center Apr. 1, 6:30 p.m. and Apr. 2, 9 a.m. - noon. Topics include Family Discipleship 101, Getting Our House in Order, and Introduction to Family Worship. A love offering will be received. For more information, visit www.prayingforaberdeenc.org. Voddie Baucham, speaker.

11. Park Place Church, Pearl, is hosting Clean Sweep: Spring Cleaning for the Soul, featuring Chandra Peele, Apr. 1 - 2, with kickoff Friday at 6:30 p.m. Tickets, \$25, including a light supper, breakfast, and lunch. Call (601) 939-6282 for more information or to purchase tickets.



5. Malmaison Church, Carroll Association



6. Waldrop reception



7. Grandview Church, Pearl

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

YVE KSWMW ZYBW Y

ACDZW QMCB

SWYAWV NYIDVX

KSCL YMK BI TWH

CAWE NCV DV RSCB D

YB RWHH GHWYNWE

BYMP CVW: WHWAWV

Clue: K = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Two: Six

SENIOR LIFE CONFERENCES

FIRST CHURCH, TUNICA
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011

TOPICS:
REACHING SENIORS, HOMEBOUND,
LOVE LANGUAGES FOR GRANDCHILDREN,
CHRISTIAN GRANDPARENTING
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
662-363-2665

CALVARY CHURCH, GREENVILLE
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

TOPICS:
TRANSFORMING A SENIOR'S LIFE,
MINISTRY OF, FOR, AND BY THE
HOMEBOUND ADULTS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
662-334-4554

HOUSE TOPS

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Martha Pratt, associate professor of mathematics, and Britney Doss, a biology honors student from Pontotoc, have been named the Blue Mountain College HEADWAE student and faculty member for 2011. HEADWAE - Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence - was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 1988 and recognizes students and faculty members from each of the state's 36 public and private colleges and universities.
2. Connie Roberts, professor of music at William Carey University, was recently voted onto the board of the Mississippi Opera. The Mississippi Opera is an organization that aims to promote the appreciation of opera, aid in the development of operatic talent, and provide cultural enrichment and entertainment for the public. Roberts was an Apprentice Artist on the Mississippi Opera's summer program the first year it was held, and she appeared in some of the productions.



1. Pratt and Doss



2. Roberts

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth: Real Evangelism conference, Mar. 23 - 25, Wed. 6:30 p.m. with Josh Smith, Ron Herrod and the Speck Trio, Thurs. 10 a.m. 1:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. with Iris Blue, Jeff Laborg, Kara Blackard, Mike Stone, Bailey Smith, Jerry Vines, and the McKameys; Fri. 10 a.m. 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. with Steven Smith, Junior Hill, Bob Pitman, Ergun Caner and the Burchfield Brothers.
2. Big Level Church, Wiggins: Revival, Mar. 13 - 16; Sun. morning, followed by lunch and afternoon services; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Renick, speaker; Benjy Rigney, music.
3. Corinth Church, Heidelberg: Revival, Apr. 3 - 6; services, 7 p.m.; Coy Rice, speaker.
4. Evergreen Church, Louisville: Revival, Mar. 13 - 16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kerry Evans, speaker.
5. Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia: Revival, Mar. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Chad Yarborough, speaker; Anson Morris, music.
6. Immanuel Church, Natchez: Revival, Mar. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Grenn, speaker; Steve Strebeck, music; Roy Tidwell, pastor.
7. Kreole Avenue Church, Moss Point: Revival, Mar. 13 - 16; Sun., 10:45 a.m. followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Scott McDowell, leader; Don Womble, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty, has called Jerry Causey, McComb, as pastor. He comes from New Heights Church, Summit, where he served as minister of education. He holds degrees from Southwest Mississippi Community College, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi, and has had coursework at New Orleans Seminary.



CD or IRA Maturing?

Learn about a safe investment that beats low bank rates & avoid probate

Ask us about 7% Guaranteed Income Growth Rider
This is an equity indexed annuity.

O'Mire Financial

1-800-844-3254
406 S Orchard Park Dr.
Ridgeland, MS 39157

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Ready for Action

I Peter 1:13-21

By Bobby McKay

I will never forget the first time I attempted to play golf. I was a freshman in college and a bunch of us guys were bored and decided to venture outdoors for some friendly competition. You should know at this point in the story that I am left handed and it took me a while to locate clubs that would be sufficient for my needs. Secondly, I had to brush up on the rules of the game. With clubs finally in hand, I was ready to dominate the sport. Everyone in the group was quick to give me advice and pointers on how to play. Upon seeing that I was left handed one friend said something I will never forget. "Listen, since you are left handed just watch me and do everything I do in the opposite way."

I learned a lot of things that day in Kossuth. Among those are the following: the PGA was not part of God's plan for my life, crappie fishing is much less stressful, and maybe most importantly, the "opposite way" is actually a good teacher. Believers fall short many times with their example in the world because they are looking to the world for a godly example. This type of search will continually be a futile one. Our example of holiness should always be Christ. In our study this week Peter shares with us three indispensable truths that will equip us in our active Christian witness.

Remember

(I Peter 1:13-16)

My oldest daughter is eight years old and I am often amazed at her memory. She



McKay

can recall things that happened when she was two years old with great detail and clarity. I once asked her how she was able to do this. She replied, "I don't know, I have good memories." I am sure that there were times in Peter's life that he wished he didn't possess "good memories". It has been well documented the denials of Peter. However, if we were honest, there are times when our lives fall short of perfection as well.

These verses challenge each of us to remember that we are not to live in the past nor are we to go back "to the former lusts." Do not forget that God has saved you from your past and desires to use you today and in the future. The holiness God is calling us to will not come to pass if we are allowing sins in our past to weigh us down. The future is always better than the past for the Christian.

Recognize
(I Peter 1:17-21)

As God is shaping us into the image of Christ, it is good that we spend an ample amount of time thanking and praising Him. Do we take time daily to recognize the beauty of His creation, the blessings of our lives, or most notably, the salvation He gives us? With Easter approaching quickly, this is a great time to recognize our need for Christ and dependence on Him. Verse 19 speaks of "the precious blood...the blood of Christ." My friend, do you recognize your need for Jesus? Your pastor, church, or denomination can't save you! Recognize the incredible Savior we have in Christ. Give Him glory with your worship and your life.

Respect

(I Peter 1:22-2:1)

One of the most obvious tests of whether or not a child truly respects his or her parents is how obedient they are. This same measuring stick can be applied to us as children of

God. There are many behaviors that should demonstrate our respect for God, but perhaps none greater than love. The people that you and I love are the people that we genuinely respect. Peter challenges us to share this deep and authentic love with everyone. He tells the readers to "fervently love one another from the heart." This may sound like an arduous undertaking, but it is possible and expected for the redeemed believer.

The first chapter concludes with thoughts about the word of God. In this case, "word" is referring to the written Scriptures. We are never told to idolize or worship the Bible, but we should respect it for what it is intended to be: a glimpse of God and instruction on how we are to live and what to teach and believe. The word that Peter is talking about is implanted in us and will never die. The Bible has and will continue to endure forever.

McKay is pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Lift Up the Gospel

Philippians 1:12-26

By Cyndi Grace

"God wants you to prosper and have wealth!" screamed from my television, as I was dressing for church. I screamed back, "I don't see that in the scriptures!" As a matter of fact, we often see the opposite, as wealth was seldom the case for Christians in the early church. My son reminded me that the over-all theme of Philippians is "joy" so perhaps a better thing to say is, "God wants you to have joy in any and every circumstance!" When we have joy, then the Gospel is lifted up to a joyless, seeking world!

Last week, we discussed unity among the church as we "move forward" but moving forward is often not easy because of unexpected circumstances. Life is not always fair and yes, bad things happen to good people. So, how do we

move forward and lift the Gospel in joy? Paul is an expert since he is writing this letter from a Roman jail! Evidently a question had been asked concerning how he was faring in prison and he answered, "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened has really served to advance the gospel." (NIV) Paul's imprisonment was not a good thing for him personally but for the gospel it was huge and this brought him joy in the direst of circumstances. To Paul the important thing was Christ being preached so even in prison Christ was made known. Perhaps you are in your own personal prison...lift Christ up and see what He will do for His glory! This goes against every logical thought, but God's ways are not our ways.



Grace

nessed Paul's popularity among the church and they wanted a part of his fame, therefore they took advantage of Paul's imprisonment for their personal gain. Their motives were impure to say the least. Had I been Paul, I would have cried foul at every sermon but his response was: Whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached and for that I rejoice." (1:18 NIV) Paul's only aim was the gospel being spread so he started to evaluate the results and if people are being brought into the fold then rejoice! God will take care of motives! Don't get sidetracked!

The final obstacle Paul mentions is one we all will face and

that is his uncertainty of tomorrow. Granted, Paul's tomorrow was immediately threatened yet he began this section with the words, "...I will continue to rejoice!" (vs 1:18:b) The words that follow indicate Paul's struggle that he might not make it out of jail alive. My heart is tendered as I read this. Too many times we read these words, forgetting that Paul was a real man, who truly loved these people and wanted them to face their future strongly for the cause of Christ. He greatly wanted to be there to teach them in person but he couldn't. In his own suffering, we find him consoling those who might face similar situations so he said, "I will in no way be ashamed...so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death." (vs 1:20) He encouraged each reader of this letter to be strong; death was not the end but rather the beginning and even through death the gospel would continue.

Friends, we all suffer hardships but the question is, "Is

Christ lifted up in your suffering?" My father suffered from a long bout of cancer causing him to be in and out of the hospital for years. In those last days I questioned why he had to suffer this pain for he was a godly man—it wasn't fair, I thought! The evening he died, his room began filling with hospital personnel. With tears in their eyes each shared their story of how through those years my father had led them to God or had given them encouragement. My father had learned to rejoice even in suffering and the results were that lives were changed.

This week encourage each other to lift the gospel no matter the circumstance. The world needs to know that God might not bring health and wealth but He will bring salvation and a peace that passes understanding to all who seek Him.

Grace is a conference speaker and Bible teacher and is a member of First Church, Clinton.

Good retirements don't come to those who wait.

You can't afford to be patient. Start planning your retirement early. GuideStone can help get you on the right track now.

Schedule an appointment with a GuideStone Guided Planning Services adviser at 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or log in to MyGuideStone.org to use the GPS tool on your own.

GET GPS GUIDANCE
AT 1-888-98-GUIDE

GuideStone
Advisors

Do well. Do right.™

Guided Planning Services and investment advice are provided by GuideStone Advisors, a controlled affiliate of GuideStone Financial Resources.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Southside Church, Greenville



2. Pender licensing



3. Branch Church, Morton



4. Brand ordination

1. **Southside Church, Greenville**, held Vacation Bible School in 2010. Shown are the preschool class participants.

2. **Providence Church, Grenada Co.**, ordained Timothy Lane to the ministry, Feb. 6. Shown are pastor Harvey Springer, Lane, his wife Janet, and children Kelsey and Zachary.

3. **Branch Church, Morton**, participated in Children's Ministry Day. GA's and RA's made cookies and delivered 38 bags to people in the community. Shown are the participants.

4. **Faith Church, West Point**, ordained Bradley Brand Jan. 23. He is music minister at Faith and has enrolled in the fall semester at Southwestern Seminary. Shown are Brand, left, and pastor Ben Yarber.

5. **East Louisville Church, Louisville**, recently ordained their pastor, Mason Joy, to the gospel ministry. Shown are Daniel Hall, Paul Blanchard, Becky Joy, Joy, and Shane McGivney.

6. The student ministry of **Ingomar Church, New Albany**, participated in the National WMU Children's Ministry Day Feb. 19. The group collected canned food items for the Good Samaritan Center. The children also conducted a program for the residents at Union County Health and Rehab and Magnolia Nursing Home, visited shut-ins, and picked up trash in the Ingomar community. Shown are the children, associate pastor Gary Linville, WMU director Jean Speck, and missions teachers presenting Good Samaritan director Sally Zemek with food items and a \$200 check.

7. **Providence Church, Meadville**, licensed David Pender to the gospel ministry Jan. 30. Shown are pastor Charlie Seale and Pender.

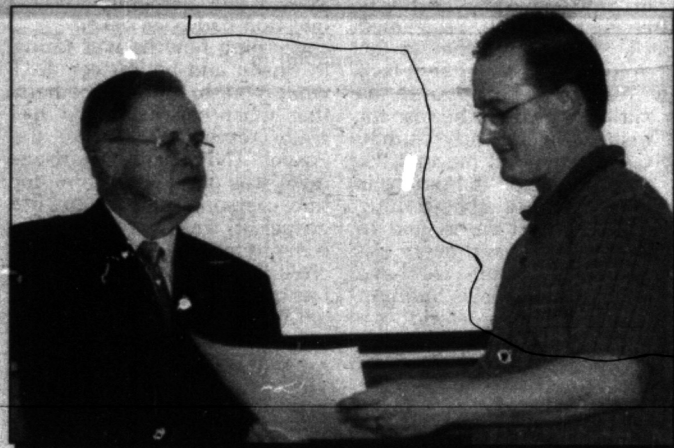
8. Senior adults of **North Columbia Church, Columbia**, participated in Covering Mississippi in Prayer by going to several locations in Columbia to pray for servants in the community - fire station, police station, city hall, Marion County courthouse, Marion-Walthall jail, Family Clinic, and one of the local nursing homes. Shown are the participants.



5. Joy ordination



6. Ingomar Church



7. Pender licensing



8. North Columbia Church, Columbia